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(54) Title: POLYPEPTIDE COMPOUNDS HAVING GROWTH HORMONE RELEASING ACTIVITY

(57) Abstract

Disclosed are novel polypeptide compounds which promote the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of animals. Also disclosed are methods of promoting the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of animals using the disclosed polypeptide compounds.

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Description POLYPEPTIDE COMPOUNDS HAVING GROWTH HORMONE RELEASING ACTIVITY

This invention relates to novel polypeptide compounds which promote the release of growth hormone when administered to animals. In another aspect, this invention relates to methods for promoting the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in animals by administration of specified growth hormone releasing polypeptide compounds thereto.

Background of the Invention

It has been established in the scientific literature that the elevation of growth hormone (GH) levels in mammals upon administration of GH-releasing compounds can lead to enhanced body weight and to enhanced milk production if sufficiently elevated GH levels occur upon administration. Further, it is known that the elevation of growth hormone levels in mammals can be accomplished by application of known growth hormone releasing agents, such as the naturally occurring growth hormone releasing hormones.

The elevation of growth hormone levels in mammals can also be accomplished by application of growth hormone releasing peptides, some of which have been previously described, for example, by F. A. Momany in U.S. 4,223,019, U.S. 4,223,020, U.S. 4,223,021, U.S. 4,224,316, U.S. 4,226,857, U.S. 4,228,155, U.S. 4,228,156, U.S. 4,228,157, U.S. 4,228,158, U.S. 4,410,512 and U.S. 4,410,513.

Antibodies to the endogenous growth hormone release inhibitor, somatostatin (SRIF) have also been used to cause elevated GH levels. In this latter example, growth hormone levels are elevated by

removing the endogenous GH-release inhibitor (SRIF) before it reaches the pituitary, where it inhibits the release of GH.

Each of these methods for promoting the elevation of growth hormone levels involve materials which are expensive to synthesize and/or isolate in sufficient purity for administration to a target animal. Short chain, relatively simple polypeptides which have the ability to promote the release of growth hormone would be desirable because they should be readily and inexpensively prepared, easily modified chemically and/or physically, as well as easily purified and formulated; and they should have excellent transport properties.

15 Objects of the Invention

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide novel growth hormone releasing compounds which are capable of promoting the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of animals.

It is another object of the present invention to provide methods for promoting the release and/or elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of animals.

These and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from inspection of the following description and claims.

Statement of the Invention

In accordance with the present invention, we have discovered several novel polypeptide compounds which promote the release of growth hormone in animals. The preparation, characterization and administration of these novel growth hormone releasing compounds will now be described in greater detail.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention is based on the discovery of several short chain (i.e., seven up to eleven amino acid residues) polypeptides which promote the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of animals. The polypeptides contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention are defined by the following generic structure:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-AA6-AA7-Z,

wherein AAl is selected from the group consisting of His, 3(NMe)His (i.e., wherein the imidazole ring is methylated at the 3-position), AAO-His and AAO-3(NMe)His; wherein AAO is selected from the group consisting of any naturally occurring L-amino acid, Met(O), DOPA and Abu;

AA2 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe, DTrp, 5-fluoro-D or D/LTrp; 6-fluoro-D or D/LTrp (i.e., wherein the indole ring is fluorinated at the 5- or 6-position), (formyl)DTrp (i.e., DTrp which is formylated at the indole nitrogen), *XTrp, wherein *XTrp is selected from the group consisting of the N-monomethylated DTrp isomers (i.e., $(N^{\alpha}Me)DTrp$ and (indole NMe)DTrp), $D^{\alpha}Nal$ and $D^{\beta}Nal$:

AA3 is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gly and Ser;

AA5 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe and (NMe)DPhe;

AA6 is selected from the group consisting of all naturally occurring L-amino acids, dipeptides of the

naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., Ala-Ala, and compounds of the formula:

 $^{\rm H}2^{\rm N-(CH}2)_{\rm n}$ -CO₂H, wherein n = 1-12;

AA7 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, 5 iLys, Lys and Orn;

Z represents the C terminal end group of said polypeptide or the C terminal amino acid(s) plus end group, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -COOH, -COOR, -CONHR,

-CONR₂, -CH₂OH and -CH₂OR, wherein R is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein Z is alternatively selected from the group consisting of -Gly-Z', -Met-Z', -Lys-Z', -Cys-Z', -Gly-Tyr-Z', and -Ala-Tyr-Z', wherein Z' is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -CONH_R, -COOH, -COOR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH, and -CH₂OR, wherein R is as defined above;

and organic or inorganic addition salts of any of 20 said polypeptides;

wherein the amino acid residue abbreviations used are in accordance with the standard peptide nomenclature:

Gly = Glycine 25 Tyr = L-Tyrosine Ile = L-Isoleucine Glu = L-Glutamic Acid Thr = L-Threonine Phe = L-Phenylalanine 30 Ala = L-Alanine

	Lys	=	L-Lysine
	Asp	==	L-Aspartic Acid
	Cys	=	L-Cysteine
	Arg	=	L-Arginine
5	Gln	=	L-Glutamine
	Pro	=	L-Proline
•	Leu	=	L-Leucine
·	Met	=	L-Methionine
	Ser	=	L-Serine
10	Asn	=	L-Asparagine
•	His	=	L-Histidine
	Trp	=	L-Tryptophan
	Val	=	L-Valine
	DOPA	=	3,4-Dihydroxyphenylalanine
15	Met(0)	=	Methionine Sulfoxide
	Abu	=	<pre>a-Aminobutyric Acid</pre>
	iLys	=	N ^c -Isopropyl-L-Lysine
	4-Abu	=	4-Aminobutyric Acid
•	Orn	=	L-Ornithine
20	D ^a Nal	=	α-Naphthyl-D-Alanine
	D ^B Nal	=	B-Naphthyl-D-Alanine

All three letter amino acid abbreviations preceded by a "D" indicate the D-configuration of the amino acid residue, and abbreviations preceded by a "D/L" indicate a mixture of the D- and L-configurations of the designated amino acid. For purposes of this disclosure, glycine is considered to be included in the term "naturally occurring L-amino acids".

The flexibility associated with the choice of basic, neutral or acidic amino acid residues for amino acids AAO, AA1, AA2, AA3, AA5, AA6 and AA7 provides one with a great deal of control over the physiochemical properties of the desired peptide.

35 Such flexibility provides important advantages for

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the formulation and delivery of the desired peptide to any given species. Additional flexibility can be imparted by the fact that the moieties R, Z and Z' can be varied as well, thereby providing added control over the physiochemical properties of the desired compound.

Preferred growth hormone releasing compound employed in the practice of the present invention are selected from the group consisting of:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-A1a-AA7-NH₂;
AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-A1a-A1a-AA7-NH₂;
and

organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides; any of which can optionally be preceded by AAO; where AAO, AA1, AA2, AA3, AA5 and AA7 are as defined above.

These compounds are preferred because of their ease of synthesis, proven efficacy at promoting an increase in serum growth hormone levels, and their consequent appeal for commercial scale production and utilization. In addition, these compounds may be advantageous in having physiochemical properties which are desirable for the efficient delivery of such polypeptide compounds to a variety of animal species. Because of the flexibility made possible by the various substitutions at numerous positions of the invention polypeptide compounds, a wide range of delivery vehicles can be employed, by selecting the polar, neutral or non-polar nature of the N-terminal, C-terminal and center portions of these polypeptide compounds so as to be compatible with the desired method of delivery.

In a most preferred embodiment, growth hormone releasing peptides employed in the practice of the

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present invention are selected from the group consisting of:

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH₂; His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-NH₂; and

organic or inorganic addition salts of either of said polypeptides; with the compound:

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH₂, and organic or inorganic addition salts thereof being the presently most preferred growth hormone releasing peptide.

These compounds are the presently most preferred because these shorter chain polypeptides are less expensive to synthesize, and these specific compounds have been shown to have a high level of potency at promoting the increase in serum growth hormone levels.

The compounds of this invention may be used to enhance blood GH levels in animals; enhance milk production in cows; enhance body growth in animals such as mammals (e.g., humans, sheep, bovines, and swine), as well as fish, fowl, other vertebrates and crustaceans; and increase wool and/or fur production in mammals. The amount of body growth is dependent upon the sex and age of the animal species, quantity and identity of the growth hormone releasing compound being administered, route of administration, and the like.

The novel polypeptide compounds of this invention can be synthesized according to the usual methods of solution and solid phase peptide chemistry, or by classical methods known in the art. The solid-phase synthesis is commenced from the C-terminal end of the peptide. A suitable starting material can be prepared, for instance, by attaching the required

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protected alpha-amino acid to a chloromethylated resin, a hydroxymethyl resin, a benzhydrylamine (BHA) resin, or a para-methyl-benzylhydrylamine (p-Me-BHA) resin. One such chloromethyl resin is sold under the tradename BIOBEADS SX-1 by Bio Rad Laboratories, Richmond, Calif. The preparation of the hydroxymethyl resin is described by Bodansky et al., Chem. Ind. (London) 38, 1597 (1966). The BHA resin has been described by Pietta and Marshall, Chem. Comm., 650 (1970) and is commercially available from Peninsula Laboratories, Inc., Belmont, California.

After the initial attachment, the alpha-amino protecting group can be removed by a choice of acidic reagents, including trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) or hydrochloric acid (HC1) solutions in organic solvents 15 at room temperature. After removal of the alpha—amino protecting group, the remaining protected amino acids can be coupled stepwise in the desired order. Each protected amino acid can be generally reacted in about a 3-fold excess using an appropriate 20 carboxyl group activator such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) or diisopropyl carbodiimide (DIC) in solution, for example, in methylene chloride (CH_2Cl_2) or dimethylformamide

After the desired amino acid sequence has been completed, the desired peptide can be cleaved from the resin support by treatment with a reagent such as hydrogen fluoride (HF) which not only cleaves the peptide from the resin, but also cleaves most 30 commonly used side-chain protecting groups. chloromethyl resin or hydroxymethyl resin is used, HF treatment results in the formation of the free peptide acid. When the BHA or p-Me-BHA resin is used, HF treatment results directly in free peptide 35 amides.

(DMF) and mixtures thereof.

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The solid-phase procedure discussed above is well known in the art and has been described by Stewart and Young, Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis: Second Edn. (Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, IL, 1984).

Some of the well known solution methods which can be employed to synthesize the peptide moieties of the instant invention are set forth in Bodansky et al.,

Peptide Synthesis, 2nd Edition, John Wiley & Sons,

New York, N.Y. 1976.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a method is provided for promoting release and/or elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of an animal. Said method comprises administering to an animal an effective dose of at least one of the above—described polypeptides.

The compounds of this invention can be administered by oral, parenteral (intramuscular (i.m.), intraperitoneal (i.p.), intravenous (i.v.) or subcutaneous (s.c.) injection), nasal, vaginal, rectal or sublingual routes of administration and can be formulated in dose forms appropriate for each route of administration.

Solid dose forms for oral administration include capsules, tablets, pills, powders and granules. In such solid dose forms, the active compound is mixed with at least one inert carrier such as sucrose, lactose, or starch. Such dose forms can also comprise, as is normal practice, additional substances other than inert diluents, e.g., lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate. In the case of capsules, tablets and pills, the dose forms may also comprise buffering agents. Tablets and pills can additionally be prepared with enteric coatings.

Liquid dose forms for oral administration include emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, the

elixirs containing inert diluents commonly used in the art, such as water. Besides, such inert diluents, compositions can also include adjuvants, such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, and sweetening, flavoring, and perfuming agents.

Preparations according to this invention for parenteral administration include sterile aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, or emulsions. Examples of non-aqueous solvents or vehicles are 10 propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oils, such as olive oil and corn oil, gelatin, and injectable organic esters such as ethyl oleate. dose forms may also contain adjuvants such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying, and dispersing 15 agents. They may be sterilized by, for example, filtration through a bacteria-retaining filter, by incorporating sterilizing agents into the compositions, by irradiating the compositions, or by heating the compositions. 20 They can also be manufactured in a medium of sterile water, or some other sterile injectable medium immediately before use.

As suggested in our copending applications Serial

No. 861,968 and Serial No. 37,275, incorporated by
reference herein, the novel compounds of the present
invention are also useful when administered in
combination with growth hormone releasing hormone
(i.e., naturally occurring growth hormone releasing
hormone, analogs and functional equivalents thereof),
as well as in combination with other compounds which
promote the release of growth hormone, e.g., growth
hormone releasing peptides. Such combinations
represent an especially preferred means to administer
the growth hormone releasing peptides of the present
invention because the combination promotes the

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release of much more growth hormone than is predicted by the summation of the individual responses for each component of the combination, i.e., the combination provides a synergistic response relative to the individual component. For further detail on the administration of combinations of growth hormone releasing peptides, those of skill in the art are referred to the above—cited applications.

The amount of polypeptide or combination of polypeptides of the present invention administered will vary depending on numerous factors, e.g., the particular animal treated, its age and sex, the desired therapeutic affect, the route of administration and which polypeptide or combination of polypeptides are employed. In all instances, however, a dose effective to promote release and elevation of growth hormone level in the blood of the recipient animal is used. Ordinarily, this dose level falls in the range of between about 0.1 µg up to 10 mg of total polypeptide per kg of body weight. In general, the administration of combinations of growth hormone releasing peptides will allow for lower doses of the individual growth hormone releasing compounds to be employed relative to the dose levels required for individual growth hormone releasing compounds in order to obtain a similar response, due to the synergistic effect of the combination.

Also included within the scope of the present invention are compositions comprising, as an active ingredient, the organic and inorganic addition salts of the above described polypeptides and combinations thereof; optionally, in association with a carrier, diluent, slow release matrix, or coating.

The organic or inorganic addition salts of the growth hormone releasing compounds and combinations

thereof contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention include salts of such organic moieties as acetate, trifluoroacetate, oxalate, valerate, oleate, laurate, benzoate, lactate, tosylate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, naphthalate, and the like; and such inorganic moieties as Group I (i.e., alkali metal salts), Group II (i.e., alkaline earth metal salts) ammonium and protamine salts, zinc, iron, and the like with counterions such as the chloride, bromide, sulfate, phosphate and the like, as well as the organic moieties referred to above.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are preferred when administration to human subjects is contemplated. Such salts include the non-toxic 15 alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and ammonium salts commonly used in the pharmaceutical industry including the sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, barium, ammonium and protamine salts which are prepared by methods well known in the art. The 20 term also includes non-toxic acid addition salts which are generally prepared by reacting the compounds of this invention with a suitable organic or inorganic acid. Representative salts include the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulfate, bisulfate, 25 acetate, oxalate, valerate, oleate, laurate, borate, benzoate, lactate, phosphate, tosylate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, napsylate, and the like.

The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the following non-limiting examples.

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EXAMPLE 1 - Synthesis of the Growth Hormone Releasing Peptides

Paramethyl benzhydrylamine hydrochloride (pMe-BHA·HCl) resin is placed in a reaction vessel on a commercially available automated peptide synthesizer. The resin is substituted with free amine up to a loading of about 5 mmoles per gram. The compounds are prepared by coupling individual amino acids starting at the carboxy terminus of the peptide sequence using an appropriate activing agent, such as N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC). The alpha amine of individual amino acids are protected, for example, as the t-butyloxycarbonyl derivative (t-Boc) and the reactive side chain functionalities are protected as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1

Side Chain Protecting Groups Suitable for Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis

Arginine: N^g-Tosyl

Aspartic Acid: O-Benzyl
Cysteine: S-para-Methylbenzyl

Glutamic Acid: O-Benzyl

Histidine: N^{im}-Tosyl

Lysine: N^c-2,4-Dichlorobenzyloxycarbonyl

25 Methionine: S-Sulfoxide Serine: O-Benzyl

Threonine: O-Benzyl
Tryptophan: Nⁱⁿ-Formyl

Tyrosine: 0-2,6-Dichlorobenzy1

Prior to incorporation of the initial amino acid, the resin is agitated three times (about one minute each) with dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂; about 10 mL/gm of resin), neutralized with three agitations (about two minutes each) of N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIEA) in dichloromethane (10:90; about 10 mL/gm of

resin) and agitated three times (about one minute each) with dichloromethane (about 10 mL/gm of. resin). The initial and each of the subsequent amino acids are coupled to the resin using a preformed symmetrical anhydride using about 3.0 times the total 5 amount of the binding capacity of the resin of a suitably protected amino acid and about 1.5 times the total amount of the binding capacity of the resin of DCC in an appropriate amount of dichloromethane. For amino acids with a low dichloromethane solubility, 10 N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) is added to achieve a homogenous solution. Generally, the symmetrical anhydride is prepared up to 30 minutes prior to introduction into the reaction vessel at room temperature or below. The dicyclohexylurea that 15 forms upon preparation of the symmetrical anhydride is removed via gravity filtration of the solution into the reaction vessel. Progress of the coupling of the amino acid to the resin is commonly monitored 20 via a color test using a reagent such as ninhydrin (which reacts with primary and secondary amines. Upon complete coupling of the protected amino acid to the resin (>99%), the alpha amine protecting group is removed by treatment with acidic reagent(s). A commonly used reagent consists of a solution of 25 trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), and anisole in dichloromethane (45:2:53). The complete procedure for incorporation of each individual amino acid residue onto the resin is outlined in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Procedure for Incorporation of Individual Amino Acids onto a Resin

		Reagent	<u>Agitations</u>	Time/Agitation
5	1.	Dichloromethane	·3	1 min.
	2.	TFA, Anisole, Dichloro- methane (45:2:53)	1	2 min.
	3.	TFA, Anisole, Dichloro- methane (45:2:53)	1	20 min.
10	4.	Dichloromethane	3	1 min.
	5.	DIEA, Dichloromethane (10:90)	3	2 min.
	6.	Dichloromethane	3	1 min.
15	7.	Preformed symmetrical anhydride	1	15-120 min.*
	8.	Dichloromethane	3	1 min.
	9.	iso-Propanol	3	1 min.
	10.	Dichloromethane	3	1 min.
20	11.	Monitor progress of the coupling reaction**		

12. Repeat Steps 1-12 for each individual amino acid

*Coupling time depends upon the individual amino acid.

**The extent of coupling can be generally monitored by a color test. If the coupling is incomplete, the same amino acid can be recoupled by repeating Steps 7-11. If the coupling is complete the next amino acid can be coupled.

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By employing this method of peptide synthesis, novel resin-bound polypeptides such as:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-AA6-AA7- ®

are obtained (wherein AA1, AA2, AA3, AA5, AA6 and AA7 are as defined above, and (P) is a polymeric resin and the functional groups of the constituent amino acids are protected with suitable protecting groups as needed). Specific sequences (in appropriately protected form) which have been prepared include:

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-®,

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-®,

DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-®,

Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-®,

and

DPhe-Ala-Lys-®.

20 EXAMPLE 2 - In Vivo GH Release in Rats

Immature female Sprague—Dawley rats were obtained from the Charles River Laboratories (Wilmington, MA). After arrival they were housed at 25°C with a 14:10 hr light:dark cycle. Water and Purina rat chow were available ad libitum. Pups were kept with their mothers until 21 days of age.

Twenty-six day old rats, six rats per treatment group, were anesthetized interperitoneally with 50 mg/Kg of pentobarbital 20 minutes prior to i.v. treatment with peptide. Normal saline with 0.1% gelatin was the vehicle for intravenous (i.v.) injections of the peptides. The anesthetized rats,

weighing 55-65 grams, were injected i.v. with the quantity of growth hormone releasing compounds indicated in Table 3. Injection was made as a 0.1 mL solution into the jugular vein.

All animals were sacrificed by guillotine
10 minutes after the final test injection (see
Table 3). Trunk blood for the determination of blood
GH levels was collected following decapitation.
After allowing the blood to clot, it was centrifuged
and the serum was separated from the clot. Serum was
kept frozen until the day of sampling for
radioimmunoassay (RIA) determination of growth
hormone levels according to the following procedure,
as developed by the National Institute of Arthritis,
Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIADDK).

Reagents are generally added to the RIA analysis tubes at a single sitting, at refrigerator temperature (about 4°C) in the following sequence:

(a) buffer.

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- 20 (b) "cold" (i.e., non-radioactive) standard or unknown serum sample to be analyzed,
 - (c) radio-iodinated growth hormone antigen, and
 - (d) growth hormone antiserum.

Reagent addition is generally carried out so that
there is achieved a final RIA tube dilution of about
1:30,000 (antiserum to total liquid volume;
vol:vol).

The mixed reagents are then typically incubated at room temperature (about 25°C) for about 24 hours prior to addition of a second antibody (e.g., goat or rabbit anti-monkey gamma globulin serum) which binds to and causes precipitation of the complexed growth hormone antiserum. Precipitated contents of the RIA tubes are then analyzed for the number of counts in a specified period of time in a gamma scintillation counter. A standard curve is prepared by plotting

number of radioactive counts versus growth hormone (GH) level. GH levels of unknowns are then determined by reference to the standard curve.

Serum GH was measured by RIA with reagents provided by the National Hormone and Pituitary Program.

Serum levels in Table 3 are recorded in ng/mL in terms of the rat GH standard of 0.61 International Units/mg (IU/mg). Data is recorded as the mean +/
standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical analysis was performed with Student's t-test. In Table 3 the results shown are the average of studies with six rats.

Table 3

In Vivo GH Release (ng/mL) Promoted by Growth
Hormone Releasing Compounds in
Pentobarbital Anesthetized Rats
(Animals Sacrificed 10 Minutes After Final Injection)

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·	Number	Column A Growth Hormone Releasing Compounds	Total Dose (ug)	Control GH ng/mL	GH Released by Compound in Column A ng/mL
10	8114*	Ala-His-DTrp-Ala- Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36	497 <u>+</u> 88 714 <u>+</u> 57 1422 <u>+</u> 321 1616 <u>+</u> 418
15	11009*	Lys-His-DTrp-Ala- Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36 287 <u>±</u> 36	430 <u>+</u> 89 569 <u>+</u> 106 156 <u>1+</u> 252 2303 <u>+</u> 104
	12676	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH ₂	0.3	111 <u>+</u> 25 111 <u>+</u> 25	796 <u>+</u> 177 4565 <u>+</u> 489
20	12676	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH2	0.1 0.1 0.3 0.3 1.0	220±29 220±29 220±29 220±29 220±29 220±29	223±74 420±105 653±93 900±163 1825±508 1965±366
			3.0	220 <u>+</u> 29 220 <u>+</u> 29	4553 <u>+</u> 670 2820 <u>+</u> 540
30	12676	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47	434 <u>+</u> 60 714 <u>+</u> 82 1552 <u>+</u> 210 4005 <u>+</u> 538
35	13522	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47 224 <u>+</u> 47	587 <u>+</u> 85 1137 <u>+</u> 167 1978 <u>+</u> 253 4178 <u>+</u> 816
	13522	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	220 <u>+</u> 29 220 <u>+</u> 29 220 <u>+</u> 29 220 <u>+</u> 29	479 <u>+</u> 99 854 <u>+</u> 125 2472 <u>+</u> 696 3627 <u>+</u> 622

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

In Vivo GH Release (ng/mL) Promoted by Growth Hormone Releasing Compounds in Pentobarbital Anesthetized Rats (Animals Sacrificed 10 Minutes After Final Injection)

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	Number	Column A Growth Hormone Releasing Compounds	Total Dose (µg)	Control GH ng/mL	GH Released by Compound in Column A ng/mL
10	13154	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ser-Lys-NH ₂	3.0	111 <u>+</u> 25	3193 <u>+</u> 296
15	13154	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Ser-Lys-NH ₂	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	165±29 165±29 165±29 165±29	128 <u>+</u> 24 340 <u>+</u> 58 794 <u>+</u> 68 1460 <u>+</u> 375
	13157	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Leu-Lys-NH ₂	3.0	111 <u>+</u> 25	1644 <u>+</u> 296
20	13157	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Leu-Lys-NH2	0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0 0.1 0.3 1.0 3.0	165±29 165±29 165±29 165±29 239±36 239±36 239±36	152±20 250±44 442±69 831±293 441±103 647±122 637±183 1661±414
	13119	His-DTrp-Ala-Trp- DPhe-Asp-Lys-NH ₂	0.3 1.0 3.0	188 <u>+</u> 14 188 <u>+</u> 14 188 <u>+</u> 14	254 <u>+</u> 59 352 <u>+</u> 67 1226 <u>+</u> 477

In Table 3, compounds of the invention are shown to promote the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of rats to which such compounds have been administered.

5 <u>EXAMPLE 3</u> - <u>Administration of a Combination of GH-Releasing Compounds</u>

The procedure of Example 2 was repeated, except the rats were not anesthetized nor were they pretreated with pentobarbital, and a combination of peptides were administered to the rats. The compounds administered, the dose level and results are set forth in Table 4.

In Vivo Synergistic Effects in Unanesthetized Rats
of Invention Compound with Group 1*
and/or Group 3* Compounds

	Compound Administered, dose (µg)*	GH Released, mg/mL
	Control	9 <u>+</u> 1
	Invention Compound, 3µg	58 <u>+</u> 19
20	Comparison Compound, 3µg	52 <u>+</u> 19
	Group 1 Compound, 3µg	327 <u>+</u> 74
	Invention + Group 1	1105 <u>+</u> 123
	Comparison + Group 1	- 1480 <u>+</u> 206
	Group 3 Compound, 10µg	183 <u>+</u> 55
25	Invention + Group 3	1118 <u>+</u> 34
	Comparison + Group 3	2018 <u>+</u> 369
	Invention + Group 1 + Group 3	3345 <u>+</u> 489
	Comparison + Group 1 + Group 3	4651+232

*Group 1 and Group 3 compounds are described in detail
in S.N. 861,968 and 37,275 which have been
incorporated by reference herein. All compounds
employed in these studies have the following
sequences:

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Invention Compound - His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH₂; Comparison Compound - His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-

NH₂;

Group 1 Compound - Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ala-Ile-Phe-Thr-Asn-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Lys-Val-Leu-Gly-Gln-Leu-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Leu-Gln-Asp-Ile-Nle-Ser-Arg-NH2;

10 Group 3 Compound - Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH₂

The results in Table 4 demonstrate that the invention compound displays a similar synergistic response to that obtained with comparison compound (which has previously been shown to give a synergistic response) when administered in combination with exemplary Group 1 and/or Group 3 compounds.

EXAMPLE 4 - In Vivo Growth Hormone Release Study - Cows

Six multiparous lactating Holstein cows (mean body weight 575 kg) were housed in a dairy barn. The cow diet consisted of a forage to concentrate ratio of 50:50 with 70% of the forage dry matter as corn silage and 30% as alfalfa hay. The concentrate portion of the diet contained corn and soybean meal in adequate quantities to provide a total mixed ration. The ration was balanced following NRC guidelines to meet the nutrient requirements (i.e., dry matter, protein, energy, crude fiber, minerals and vitamins) of dairy cows in early to mid-lactation. Cows were fed twice daily.

Catheters were inserted into the jugular vein for withdrawal of blood samples and i.v. injections of peptides. Approximately 4 mL of saline was flushed

through the catheter after each blood drawing. Six mL blood samples were collected between about 12:20 PM and 4 PM at -40, -20, -10, 0, +5, +10, +15, +20, +30, +40, +60, +80, +100, +140, and +160 minutes, on each day of the study. Normal saline or peptides dissolved in normal saline was injected i.v. through the catheter at 0 time to the unanesthetized The saline/peptide was infused in bolus (5.0 mL volume). The blood was collected in EDTA treated tubes, centrifuged and the plasma separated 10 from the pellet. Plasma was kept frozen until the day of sampling for radioimmunoassay (RIA) of growth hormone. Plasma GH was measured by RIA with reagents provided by the NIADDK. The GH levels are reported 15 in terms of ng/mL of a bovine GH reference preparation, NIH-GH-B18, which is equivalent to 3.2 IU/mg. Data is recorded as the mean+ the standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical analysis was performed with the Student's t-test. 20 Results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Relative Potencies of His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2 (Comparison A), Lys-His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2 (Comparison B) and His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH2 (Invention) In Lactating Dairy Cows

			Dose Lev	el		
		3 mcg/k	g bw		/kg bw	
		GH AUC*		GH AUC	• •	
30	Compounds	ng-min/mL Lo	g (GH AUC)	ng-min/mL L	og (GH AUC)	
	Compar-					
	ison A	1,485 <u>+</u> 1,008	6.86 <u>+</u> 0.38	3,734 <u>+</u> 1,008	7.82 <u>+</u> 0.38	
	Compar-					
	ison B	795 <u>+</u> 1,008	6.72 <u>+</u> 0.38	3,129 <u>+</u> 1,008	7.81 <u>+</u> 0.38	
35	Invention	1,592 <u>+</u> 1,008	7.00 <u>+</u> 0.38	6,159 <u>+</u> 1,008	8.46 <u>+</u> 0.38	
	*GH AUC is	GH area unde	r the curve	over 180 mi	nutes after	
	bolus IV	infusion; all	GH values	were correct	ed for	
	differenc	es in molecul	ar weights	of each comp	ound.	

In Table 5, invention compound is shown to promote The release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of lactating dairy cows to which the compound has been administered. The level of growth hormone release observed is greater than or equal to the levels observed with previously disclosed novel growth hormone releasing peptides.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.

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CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A polypeptide capable of promoting the release and elevation of growth hormone levels in the blood of a recipient animal, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides defined by the generic structure:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-AA6-AA7-Z,

wherein AA1 is selected from the group consisting of His and 3(NMe)His (i.e., wherein the imidazole ring is methylated at the 3-position); AAO-His and AAO-3(NMe)His; wherein AAO is selected from the group consisting of any naturally occurring L-amino acid, Met(O), DOPA and Abu;

AA2 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe, DTrp, 5-fluoro-D or D/LTrp; 6-fluoro-D or D/LTrp (i.e., wherein the indole ring is fluorinated at the 5- or 6-position), (formyl)DTrp (i.e., DTrp which is formylated at the indole nitrogen), *XTrp, wherein *XTrp is selected from the group consisting of the N-monomethylated DTrp isomers (i.e., $(N^{\alpha}Me)DTrp$ and (indole NMe)DTrp), $D^{\alpha}Nal$ and $D^{\beta}Nal$:

AA3 is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gly and Ser;

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AA5 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe and (NMe)DPhe;

AA6 is selected from the group consisting of all naturally occurring L-amino acids, dipeptides of the naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., Ala-Ala, and compounds of the formula:

 $^{\text{H}}2^{\text{N-(CH}}2)_{n}^{\text{-CO}}2^{\text{H}}$, wherein n = 1-12;

AA7 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, iLys, Lys and Orn;

Z represents the C terminal end group of said 10 polypeptide or the C terminal amino acid(s) plus end group, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -CONH2, -COOH, -COOR, -CONHR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH and -CH₂OR, wherein R is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms or an 15 aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein Z is alternatively selected from the group consisting of -Gly-Z', -Met-Z', -Lys-Z', -Cys-Z', -Gly-Tyr-Z', and -Ala-Tyr-Z', wherein Z' is selected from the group consisting of 20 -conh₂, -cooh, -conhR, -coor, -conR₂, -CH $_2$ OH, and -CH $_2$ OR, wherein R is as defined above:

and organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides;

wherein the amino acid residue abbreviations used are in accordance with the standard peptide nomenclature:

	Gly	= Glycine
•	Tyr	= L-Tyrosine
	Ile	= L-Isoleucine
·	Glu	= L-Glutamic Acid
5	Thr	= L-Threonine
	Phe	= L-Phenylalanine
	Ala	= L-Alanine
	Lys	= L-Lysine
	Asp	= L-Aspartic Acid
10	Cys	= L-Cysteine
	Arg	= L-Arginine
	Gln	= L-Glutamine
•	Pro	= L-Proline
•	Leu	= L-Leucine
15	Met	= L-Methionine
	Ser	= L-Serine
•	Asn	= L-Asparagine
	His	= L-Histidine
	Trp	= L-Tryptophan
20 .	Val	= L-Valine
	DOPA	= 3,4-Dihydroxyphenylalanine
	Met(0)	<pre>= Methionine Sulfoxide</pre>
· .	Abu	= α-Aminobutyric Acid
	iLys	= N [£] -Isopropyl-L-Lysine
25 ·	4-Abu	= 4-Aminobutyric Acid
	Orn	= L-Ornithine
•	D ^a Nal	= α-Naphthyl-D-Alanine
•	D ^β Nal	= β-Naphthyl-D-Alanine

All three letter amino acid abbreviations
preceded by a "D" indicate the D-configuration
of the amino acid residue; abbreviations
preceded by a "D/L" indicate a mixture of the Dand L-configurations of the designated amino
acids; and glycine is included in the scope of
the term "naturally occurring L-amino acids".

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2. A polypeptide in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

> AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-Ala-AA7-NH₂; AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-Ala-Ala-AA7-NH₂; and

organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides.

3. A polypeptide in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys-NH₂; His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys-NH₂; and

- organic or inorganic addition salts of either of said polypeptides.
 - 4. Method of promoting the release and elevation of blood growth hormone levels in animals by administering thereto an effective amount of at least one of the polypeptides set forth in Claim 1.
 - 5. Method of promoting the release and elevation of blood growth hormone levels in animals by administering thereto an effective amount of at least one of the polypeptides set forth in Claim 2.

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- 6. Method of promoting the release and elevation of blood growth hormone levels in animals by administering thereto an effective amount of at least one of the polypeptides set forth in Claim 3.
- 7. A compound of the formula:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-AA6-AA7-®

wherein AAl is selected from the group consisting of His and 3(NMe)His (i.e., wherein the imidazole ring is methylated at the 3-position); AAO-His, AAO-3(NMe)His; wherein AAO is any naturally occurring L-amino acid;

AA2 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe, DTrp, 5-fluoro-D or D/LTrp; 6-fluoro-D or D/LTrp (i.e., wherein the indole ring is fluorinated at the 5- or 6-position), (formyl)DTrp (i.e., DTrp which is formylated at the indole nitrogen), *XTrp, wherein *XTrp is selected from the group consisting of the N-monomethylated DTrp isomers (i.e., (N^\alpha Me)DTrp and (indole NMe)DTrp), D^\alpha Nal and D^\beta Nal;

AA3 is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gly and Ser;

AA5 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe and (NMe)DPhe;

AA6 is selected from the group consisting of all naturally occurring L-amino acids, dipeptides of the naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., Ala-Ala, and compounds of the formula:

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 $H_2N(CH_2)_nCO_2H$

wherein n = 1-12;

AA7 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, iLys, Lys and Orn;

- and wherein
 is a polymeric resin and
 functional groups of the constituent amino acids
 are protected with suitable protecting groups as
 needed.
 - 8. A compound of the formula:

His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys- ${\mathbb Q}$

- wherein @ is a polymeric resin and functional groups of the constituent amino acids are protected with suitable protecting groups as needed.
 - 9. A compound of the formula:
- 20 His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- 🔞

wherein (R) is a polymeric resin and functional groups of the constituent amino acids are protected with suitable protecting groups as needed.

10. A resin-bound polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- (R),
DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys- (R),
Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys- (R),
Ala-Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys- (R),
Trp-DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- (R),
Trp-DPhe-Ala-Lys- (R),
DPhe-Ala-Ala-Lys- (R),
and
DPhe-Ala-Lys- (R).

wherein ② is a polymeric resin and functional groups of the constituent amino acids are protected with suitable protecting groups as needed.

15 11. A combination effective to cause the release and elevation of the level of growth hormone in the blood of an animal, the combination comprising an effective amount of polypeptides selected from at least two different groups of Group 1 polypeptides, Group 2 polypeptides or Group 3 polypeptides;

wherein Group 1 polypeptides are selected from any of the naturally occurring growth hormone releasing hormones and functional equivalents thereof, wherein said polypeptides act at the growth hormone releasing hormone receptor of mammals and other vertebrates, and crustaceans;

Group 2 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypeptides having the structure:

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wherein AA1 is selected from the group consisting of His and 3(NMe)His (i.e., wherein the imidazole ring is methylated at the 3-position); AAO-His and AAO-3(NMe)His; wherein AAO is any naturally occurring L-amino acid;

AA2 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe, DTrp, 5-fluoro-D or D/LTrp; 6-fluoro-D or D/LTrp (i.e., wherein the indole ring is fluorinated at the 5- or 6-position), (formyl)DTrp (i.e., DTrp which is formylated at the indole nitrogen), *XTrp, wherein *XTrp is selected from the group consisting of the N-monomethylated DTrp isomers (i.e., (N^Me)DTrp and (indole NMe)DTrp), D^MNa1 and D^BNa1:

AA3 is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gly and Ser;

AA5 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe and (NMe)DPhe;

AA6 is selected from the group consisting of all naturally occurring L-amino acids, dipeptides of the naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., Ala-Ala, and compounds of the formula:

 $^{\rm H}{_2}^{\rm N-(CH}{_2})_{\rm n}^{\rm -CO}{_2}^{\rm H}$, wherein n = 1-12;

AA7 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, iLys, Lys and Orn;

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Z represents the C terminal end group of said polypeptide or the C terminal amino acid(s) plus end group, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -COOH, -COOR, -CONHR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH and -CH₂OR, wherein R is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein Z is alternatively selected from the group consisting of -Gly-Z', -Met-Z', -Lys-Z', -Cys-Z', -Gly-Tyr-Z', and -Ala-Tyr-Z', wherein Z' is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -COOH, -CONHR, -COOR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH, and -CH₂OR, wherein R is as defined above;

and organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides;

wherein the amino acid residue abbreviations used are in accordance with the standard peptide nomenclature:

20	Gly	= Glycine
	Tyr	= L-Tyrosine
	Ile	= L-Isoleucine
	Glu	= L-Glutamic Acid
	Thr	= L-Threonine
25	Phe	= L-Phenylalanine
·	Ala	= L-Alanine
	Lys	= L-Lysine
	Asp	= L-Aspartic Acid
	Cys	= L-Cysteine
30	Arg	= L-Arginine
	G1n	= L-Glutamine
	Pro	= L-Proline
	Leu	= L-Leucine

	Met	= L-Methionine
	Ser	= L-Serine
	Asn	= L-Asparagine
	His	= L-Histidine
5	Trp	= L-Tryptophan
	Va1	= L-Valine
	DOPA	= 3,4-Dihydroxyphenylalanine
	Gly-ol	= 2-Aminoethanol
	Нур	= trans-4-Hydroxy-L-Proline
10	Met(0)	= Methionine sulfoxide
	Met(0)-01	<pre>= Methionine sulfoxide alcohol</pre>
	Sar	= Sarcosine
	Sar-ol	= Sarcosine alcohol
15	Thz	= L-Thiazolidine-
•		4-carboxylic Acid
•	iLys	= N^{ε} -Isopropyl-L-Lysine
	4-Abu	= 4-Aminobutyric Acid
	Orn	= L-Ornithine
20 ·	D ^a Nal	= α-Naphthyl-D-Alanine
·	D ^β Nal	= β-Naphthyl-D-Alanine

All three letter amino acid abbreviations preceded by a "D" indicate the D-configuration of the amino acid residue; abbreviations preceded by a "D/L" indicate a mixture of the D-and L-configurations of the designated amino acids; and glycine is included in the scope of the term "naturally occurring L-amino acids"; and

Group 3 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypetides having the structure:

Tyr-DArg-Phe-NH₂; Tyr-DAla-Phe-NH₂; Tyr-DArg(NO₂)-Phe-NH₂;

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Tyr-DMet(0)-Phe-NH2;
                         Tyr-DA1a-Phe-G1y-NH2;
                         Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                        Tyr-EThr-Phe-Gly-NH2;
  5
                        Phe-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar;
                        Tyr-DAla-Gly-Phe-NH2;
                        Tyr-DArg-Gly-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                        Tyr-DArg-(NO<sub>2</sub>)-Phe-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>;
10
                        Tyr-DMet(0)-Phe-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                        (NMe)Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH2;
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-ol;
                        Tyr-DArg-Gly-(NMe)Phe-NH2;
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-ol;
15
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-ol;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-Tyr-NH2;
                        Gly-Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                        Tyr-DThr-Gly-Phe-Thz-NH2;
                        Gly-Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-NH2;
20
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-ol;
                        Tyr-DAla-Gly-(NMe)Phe-Gly-ol;
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar;
25
                       Tyr-DAla-Gly-(NMe)Phe-NH2;
                       Sar-Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH2;
                       Tyr-DCys-Phe-Gly-DCys-NH2
                          (cyclic disulfide);
                       Tyr-DCys-Phe-Gly-DCys-NH2
30
                          (free dithiol);
                       Tyr-DCys-Gly-Phe-DCys-NH2
                          (cyclic disulfide);
                       Tyr-DCys-G1y-Phe-DCys-NH<sub>2</sub>
                         (free dithiol);
                       Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH2;
35
                       Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH<sub>2</sub>;
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3.0

	Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Phe-Pro-Ser-NH ₂ ; Tyr-DA1a-Phe-G1y-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH ₂ ; Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH ₂ ;
=	Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-Phe-Hyp-Ser-NH2;
5 .	Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH ₂ ;
•	Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH ₂ ;
	Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH ₂ ;
	Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH ₂ ; and
10	organic or inorganic addition salts
•	of any of said polypeptides of
	Group 3;
	wherein said combination is administered in a

wherein said combination is administered in a ratio such that said combination is effective to cause the synergistic release and elevation of growth hormone in the blood of such animal.

- 12. Combination of Claim 11 wherein said Group 1 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypeptides:
- 20 (a) having the following amino acid sequences in positions 1-44 (numbered from N terminus to C terminus):
 - (#144) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMSRQQGE-SNQERGARARL-X,
 - (#145) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMSRQQGE-RNQEQGARVRL-X,
 - (#146) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMNRQQGE-RNQEQGAKVRL-X,
 - (#148) YADAIFTNSYRKILGQLSARKLLQDIMNRQQGE-RNQEQGAKVRL-X,
 - (#149) HADAIFTSSYRRILGQLYARKLLHEIMNRQQGE-RNQEQRSRFN-X; and functional equivalents thereof;

wherein the C-terminal amino acid has the following truncated general formula:

wherein each R' independently represents
the substituents of the particular amino
acid residue, e.g.; hydrogen, alkyl, aryl,
amino or acid substituents; X denotes the
C terminal end group and is selected from
-CONH₂, -COOH, -COOR, -CONRR, -CH₂OH,
and -CH₂OR, where R is an alkyl group
having 1-6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring
having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein
the amino acid residue abbreviations used
are in accordance with the standard peptide
nomenclature:

G = Gly (Glycine), Y = Tyr (L-Tyrosine), I = Ile (L-Isoleucine), 20 = Glu (L-Glutamic Acid), E = Thr (L-Threonine), F = Phe (L-Phenylalanine), = Ala (L-Alanine), K = Lys (L-Lysine), 25 D = Asp (L-Aspartic Acid), C = Cys (L-Cysteine), R = Arg (L-Arginine), Q = Gln (L-Glutamine), P = Pro (L-Proline), 30 = Leu (L-Leucine), L = Met (L-Methionine), M = Ser (L-Serine), S

N

= Asn (L-Asparagine),

10

H = His (L-Histidine),

W = Trp (L-Tryptophan), and

V = Val (L-Valine);

Nle = Norleucine

Sar = Sarcosine

Sar—o1 = Sarcosine Alcohol

Gly-ol = 2-Aminoethanol

Met(0) = Methionine Sulfoxide

(b) any one of said (a) polypeptides having the following amino acid substitutions:

Position 1 of (#144-#148) is DTyr or His;

Position 1 of (#149) is Tyr or DHis;

Position 2 of (#144-#149) is (NMe)DAla or Aib or DAla;

Position 3 of (#144-#149) is DAsp;

Position 4 of (#144-#149) is DAla; and

Position 1 + 2 of (#144-#149) is:

DTyr¹ + DAla², DTyr¹ + (NMe)DAla², or DTyr¹ + Aib²;

- (c) any one of said (a) or (b) polypeptides having a substitution of Nle for Met at Position 27;
- (d) any one of said (a), (b) or (c)

 polypeptides in which the N-terminus -NH₂

 is replaced by -NHCOR and wherein R is an
 alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or
 an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon
 atoms;

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- (e) fragments of any one of said (a), (b), (c) or (d) polypeptides which contain at least the amino acid residues of Positions 1-29;
- (f) having the following specific amino acid sequences in Positions 1-29 (numbered from N terminus to C terminus):

YADAIFTNSYRKVLQQLAARKLLQDIMSR-X, YADAIFTNSYRKVLQQLLARKLLQDIMSR-X. YSDAIFSNAYRKILQQLLARKLLQDIMOR-X, YADAIFSNAYRKILQQLLARKLLQDIMQR-X, YADAIFSSAYRRLLAQLASRRLLQELLAR-X, YADAIFTNCYRKVLCQLSARKLLQDIMSR-X (linear dithiol), and YADAIFTNCYRKVLCQLSARKLLQDIMSR-X (cyclic disulfide):

wherein the C-terminal amino acid and X are as defined above; and modification of any one of these group (f) compounds in accordance with the modifications set forth in (b), (c) and (d) above; and

- (g) organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) polypeptides of Group 1.
- 13. Combination of Claim 11 comprising a compound 25 from each of Group 1 polypeptides and Group 2 polypeptides.
 - 14. Combination of Claim 11 comprising a compound from each of Group 2 polypeptides and Group 3 polypeptides.

- 15. Combination of Claim 11 comprising a compound from each of Group 1 polypeptides, Group 2 polypeptides and Group 3 polypeptides.
- 16. Method of causing release and elevation of the level of growth hormone in the blood of an animal, comprising administering an effective dose of a combination comprising polypeptides selected from at least two different groups of Group 1 polypeptides, Group 2 polypeptides or Group 3 polypeptides;

wherein Group 1 polypeptides are selected from any of the naturally occurring growth hormone releasing hormones and functional equivalents thereof, wherein said polypeptides act at the growth hormone releasing hormone receptor of mammals and other vertebrates, and crustaceans;

Group 2 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypeptides having the structure:

AA1-AA2-AA3-Trp-AA5-AA6-AA7-Z,

- wherein AAl is selected from the group consisting of His and 3(NMe)His (i.e., wherein the imidazole ring is methylated at the 3-position); AAO-His and AAO-3(NMe)His; wherein AAO is any naturally occurring L-amino acid;
- AA2 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe, DTrp, 5-fluoro-D or D/LTrp; 6-fluoro-D or D/LTrp (i.e., wherein the indole ring is fluorinated at the 5- or 6-position), (formyl)DTrp (i.e., DTrp which is formylated at the indole nitrogen), *XTrp, wherein *XTrp is

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selected from the group consisting of the N-monomethylated DTrp isomers (i.e., $(N^{\alpha}Me)DTrp$ and (indole NMe)DTrp), $D^{\alpha}Nal$ and $D^{\beta}Nal$;

5 AA3 is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gly and Ser;

AA5 is selected from the group consisting of DPhe and (NMe)DPhe;

AA6 is selected from the group consisting of all naturally occurring L-amino acids, dipeptides of the naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., Ala-Ala, and compounds of the formula:

 $H_2^{N-(CH_2)}_{n}^{-CO_2H}$, wherein n = 1-12;

AA7 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, iLys, Lys and Orn;

Z represents the C terminal end group of said polypeptide or the C terminal amino acid(s) plus end group, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -COOH, -COOR, -CONHR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH and -CH₂OR, wherein R is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein Z is alternatively selected from the group consisting of -Gly-Z', -Met-Z', -Lys-Z', -Cys-Z', -Gly-Tyr-Z', and -Ala-Tyr-Z', wherein Z' is selected from the group consisting of -CONH₂, -COOH, -CONHR, -COOR, -CONR₂, -CH₂OH, and -CH₂OR, wherein R is as defined above;

and organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides;

wherein the amino acid residue abbreviations used are in accordance with the standard peptide nomenclature:

	Gly	= G1	lycine
•	Tyr	= L-	-Tyrosine
,	Ile	= L-	-Isoleucine
•	Glu	= L-	-Glutamic Acid
10	Thr	= L-	-Threonine
•	Phe	= L-	-Phenylalanine
	Ala	= L-	-Alanine
	Lys	= L-	-Lysine
•	Asp	= L-	-Aspartic Acid
15	Cys	= L-	-Cysteine
•	Arg	= L-	-Arginine
•	Gln	= L-	-Glutamine
•	Pro	= L-	-Proline
	Leu	= L-	-Leucine
20	Met	= L-	-Methionine
	Ser	= L-	-Serine
	Asn	= L-	-Asparagine
·	His	= L-	-Histidine
	Trp	= L-	-Tryptophan
25	Val		-Valine
	iLys	= N'	[£] -Isopropyl-L-lysine
	4-Abu		-Aminobutyric acid
,	Nle	= No	orleucine
•	Sar	= Sa	arcosine
30	Sar-ol	= 58	arcosine Alcohol
			-Aminoethanol
	Met(0)	= Me	ethionine Sulfoxide
	Orn	= L-	-Ornithine
•	DaNal	= a-	-naphthyl-D-alanine
35	D ^B Nal	= ß-	-naphthyl-D-alanine

All three letter amino acid abbreviations preceded by a "D" indicate the D-configuration of the amino acid residue;

Group 3 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypetides having the structure:

```
Tyr-DArg-Phe-NH2;
                         Tyr-DAla-Phe-NH2;
                         Tyr-DArg(NO<sub>2</sub>)-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                         Tyr-DMet(0)-Phe-NH2;
10
                         Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                         Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                         Tyr-DThr-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                         Phe-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                         Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar;
15
                         Tyr-DAla-Gly-Phe-NH2;
                         Tyr-DArg-Gly-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                         Tyr-DArg(NO<sub>2</sub>)-Phe-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>;
                         Tyr-DMet(0)-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                         (NMe)Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH<sub>2</sub>;
20
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-ol;
                        Tyr-DArg-Gly-(NMe)Phe-NH2;
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-ol;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-ol;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-Tyr-NH2;
25
                        Gly-Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                        Tyr-DThr-Gly-Phe-Thz-NH2;
                        Gly-Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-NH2;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-ol;
                        Tyr-DA1a-Gly-(NMe)Phe-Gly-o1;
30
                        Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH2;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-NH2;
                        Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar;
                        Tyr-DAla-Gly-(NMe)Phe-NH2;
                        Sar-Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-NH2;
```

Tyr-DCys-Phe-Gly-DCys-NH2 (cyclic disulfide); Tyr-DCys-Phe-Gly-DCys-NH₂ (free dithio1); 5 Tyr-DCys-Gly-Phe-DCys-NH2 (cyclic disulfide); Tyr-DCys-Gly-Phe-DCys-NH₂ (free dithiol): Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH2; 10 Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH2; Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Phe-Pro-Ser-NH₂; Tyr-DAla-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH2; Tyr-DAla-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH₂; Tyr-DA1a-Phe-Sar-Phe-Hyp-Ser-NH2; 15 Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH2; Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH2; Tyr-DArg-Phe-Sar-Tyr-Hyp-Ser-NH2; Tyr-DArg-Phe-Gly-Tyr-Pro-Ser-NH2; and 20 organic or inorganic addition salts of any of said polypeptides of Group 3.

- 17. Method of Claim 16 wherein said Group 1 polypeptides are selected from any of the polypeptides:
 - (a) having the following amino acid sequences in Positions 1-44 (numbered from N terminus to C terminus):
- (#144) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMSRQQGE— 30 SNQERGARARL—X,
 - (#145) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMSRQQGE-RNQEQGARVRL-X,

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- (#146) YADAIFTNSYRKVLGQLSARKLLQDIMNRQQGE-RNQEQGAKVRL-X,
- (#148) YADAIFTNSYRKILGQLSARKLLQDIMNRQQGE-RNQEQGAKVRL-X,

(#149) HADAIFTSSYRRILGQLYARKLLHEIMNRQQGE-RNQEQRSRFN-X; and functional equivalents thereof;

wherein the C-terminal amino acid has the following truncated general formula:

10 R --NH--Ç-R

wherein each R' independently represents the substituents of the particular amino acid residue, e.g.; hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, amino or acid substituents; X denotes the C terminal end group and is selected from —CONH₂, —COOH, —COOR, —CONRR, —CH₂OH, and —CH₂OR, where R is an alkyl group having 1—6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms; and wherein the amino acid residue abbreviations used are in accordance with the standard peptide nomenclature:

25 G = Gly (Glycine), Y = Tyr (L-Tyrosine), Ι = Ile (L-Isoleucine), Ε = Glu (L-Glutamic Acid), = Thr (L-Threonine), T 30 F = Phe (L-Phenylalanine), A = Ala (L-Alanine), K = Lys (L-Lysine),

```
D
                                  = Asp (L-Aspartic Acid),
                        C
                                  = Cys (L-Cysteine),
                       R
                                  = Arg (L-Arginine),
                                  = Gln (L-Glutamine),
                        Q
  5
                       P
                                  = Pro (L-Proline),
                       L
                                  = Leu (L-Leucine),
                       M
                                  = Met (L-Methionine),
                       S
                                  = Ser (L-Serine),
                       N
                                  = Asn (L-Asparagine),
 10
                       H
                                  = His (L-Histidine),
                       W
                                  = Trp (L-Tryptophan), and
                       V
                                  = Val (L-Valine);
                       Aib
                                  = \alpha-Aminoisobutyric Acid
                       Nle
                                  = Norleucine
15
                       (NMe)DAla = N-Methyl-D-Alanine
           (b) any one of said (a) polypeptides having the
                following amino acid substitutions:
               Position 1 of (#144-#148) is DTyr or His;
               Position 1 of (#149) is Tyr or DHis;
20
               Position 2 of (#144-#149) is (NMe)DAla or
               Aib or DAla;
               Position 3 of (#144-#149) is DAsp;
               Position 4 of (#144-#149) is DAla; and
               Position 1 + 2 of (#144-#149) is:
25
               DTyr^1 + DAla^2, DTyr^1 + (NMe)DAla^2,
```

or DTyr1 + Aib2;

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- (c) any one of said (a) or (b) polypeptides having a substitution of N1e for Met at Position 27;
- (d) any one of said (a), (b) or (c) polypeptides in which the N-terminus -NH₂ is replaced by -NHCOR and wherein R is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or an aromatic ring having up to 12 carbon atoms;
- 10 (e) fragments of any one of said (a), (b), (c) or (d) polypeptides which contain at least the amino acid residues of Positions 1-29;
 - (f) having the following specific amino acid sequences in Positions 1-29 (numbered from N terminus to C terminus):

YADAIFTNSYRKVLQQLAARKLLQDIMSR-X,
YADAIFTNSYRKVLQQLLARKLLQDIMSR-X,
YSDAIFSNAYRKILQQLLARKLLQDIMOR-X,
YADAIFSNAYRKILQQLLARKLLQDIMQR-X,
YADAIFSSAYRRLLAQLASRRLLQELLAR-X,
YADAIFTNCYRKVLCQLSARKLLQDIMSR-X
(linear dithiol), and
YADAIFTNCYRKVLCQLSARKLLQDIMSR-X
(cyclic disulfide);

wherein the C-terminal amino acid and X are as defined above; and modification of any one of these group (f) compounds in accordance with the modifications set forth in (b), (c) and (d) above; and

- (g) organic or inorganic addition salts of any
 of said (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f)
 polypeptides of Group 1.
- 18. Method of Claim 16 wherein said combination

 comprises a compound from each of Claim 1
 polypeptides and Group 2 polypeptides.
- 19. Method of Claim 16 wherein said combination comprises a compound from each of Group 2 polypeptides and Group 3 polypeptides.
- 10 20. Method of Claim 16 wherein said combination comprises a compound from each of Group 1 polypeptides, Group 2 polypeptides and Group 3 polypeptides.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 89/00202

I. CLAS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several class	sification symbols apply, indicate all) *	
	g to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both N		
IPC4:	C 07 K 7/06, 7/02; A 61 K 37/43	,	
II. FIELD	S SEARCHED	- Assis - County - 1	
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	Documentation Searched other	thre Mislaya Becumentation	
		is are included in the Fields Searched 6	
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III. DOCI	IMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		•
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1		"T" later document published after th	a international filing data
•	categories of cited documents: 19 Junear defining the general state of the art which is not	or priority date and not in conflicted to understand the principle	t with the application but
con	sidered to be of particular relevance er document but published on or after the international	invention	
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whic	ment which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or in the cited to establish the publication date of another	involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance	
citat	ion of other special reason (as specified) Iment referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	cannot be considered to involve a	n inventive step when the
othe	r means .	ments, such combination being of	bvious to a person skilled
	ment published prior to the international filing date but than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same p	atent family
IV. CERTI	FICATION		
	Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Sea	rch Report
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v.X oz	SERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE 1	•
		the fellowing sees :
	national search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for	
1.X Cial	m numbers 4-6. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Autho and 16-20	rity, namely:
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	thod for treatment of the human or animal body by therap	y.
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in co	m numbers, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply w	ith the prescribed require-
mer	its to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:	
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	im numbers, because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the sec	ond and third sentences of
PC	T Rule 6.4(a).	
VI. O	BSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING 2	
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This inte	mational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:	
	all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report of	overs all searchable claims
	he international application.	
	only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international secialms of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:	SERICH ISPORT COVERS ONLY
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	required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international se	arch report is restricted to
the	Invention first montioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:	
A 🗀 🗛	all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the international S	earching Authority did not
	te payment of any additional fee.	
Remark o	n Protest	
☐ TM	additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.	
☐ No	protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.	

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.

PCT/US 89/00202

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office FIPP file on 03/03/89

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